

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 238800 TOSEC 100096
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARP:JRCOUNTRYMAN:CEJ
APPROVED BY NEA:SSO0ER
S/S:O-SGOLDSMITH
DESIRED DISTRIBUTION
NEA ONLY

-----043194 042024Z /61

O 041958Z OCT 77 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 238800 TOSEC 100096

EXDIS - EYES ONLY FOR ATHERTON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: THE SECRETARY'S CONVERSATION WITH PDRY FOREIGN
MINISTER MUTI'

1. FOLLOWING IS SUGGESTED TEXT FOR REPORTING TO EMBASSIES
JIDDA AND LONDON SECRETARY'S PDRY BILATERAL.

2. SUMMARY: SECRETARY HELD TALKS IN FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE
WITH PDRY FOREIGN MINISTER MUTI' FOCUSING ON ABSENCE OF
FORMAL DIPLOMATIC TIES AS IMPEDING UNDERSTANDING AND
FURTHERING OF OUR MUTUAL INTERESTS. AT CLOSE OF TALKS
BOTH SIDES DECLARED THEY HAD DECIDED TO RESTORE RELATIONS.
SECRETARY AGREED TO MUTI'S SUGGESTION WE SENT AN APPRO-
PRIATE LEVEL DELEGATION TO ADEN WITHIN THE NEXT TWO MONTHS
TO DISCUSS FURTHER TIMING AND IMPLEMENTATION. WE AGREED
TO MUTI'S REQUEST TO KEEP IN CONFIDENCE THE FACT WE WOULD
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 238800 TOSEC 100096

BE SENDING A DELEGATION FOR THIS PURPOSE. END SUMMARY.

3. THE SECRETARY MET WITH PDRY FONMIN MUTI' OCTOBER 3.
HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY UNDER SECRETARY HABIB, SABBAGH AS
INTERPRETER AND COUNTRYMAN OF ARP AS NOTETAKER. PDRY
PERMREP ASHTAL ALSO SAT IN. SECRETARY BEGAN NOTING HE HAD
BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING WITH MUTI' AND HAVING A

CHANCE TO TALK ABOUT IMPROVING RELATIONS. WE HAVE NOT HAD ANY REAL COMMUNICATION AND IT WOULD BE OF MUTUAL BENEFIT IF WE COULD CHANGE THIS SITUATION BY DISCUSSING ISSUES WHICH TEND TO PUSH US APART.

4. MUTI' SAID HE WAS GRATEFUL FOR MEETING AND HAD BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO IT. WE HAVE NOT HAD RELATIONS IN THE PAST BUT HE HOPED SITUATION WOULD IMPROVE. ONE OF THE MAIN REASONS FOR OUR DIFFERENCES HAS BEEN THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION. THE ISRAELI ATTACK ON THE BEIRUT AIRPORT IN 1969 WAS A MAJOR REASON FOR THE BREAK OF RELATIONS. DURING THE INTERVENING PERIOD PDRY HAS KEPT CURRENT ON ALL POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST INCLUDING US ATTITUDE TOWARD PALESTINIAN QUESTION AND THE MIDDLE EAST AS A WHOLE. HE HOPED DEVELOPMENTS WILL MOVE TOWARD ESTABLISHMENT OF A JUST AND LASTING MIDDLE EAST PEACE WHICH CANNOT HAPPEN WITHOUT SETTLING THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION. MUTI' HOPED US ATTITUDE TOWARD PLO WOULD IMPROVE AS PLO HAS BEEN RECOGNIZED BY ALL ARABS AS THE SOLE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PALESTINIANS.

5. AS TO OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS MUTI' SAID WE CAN ALWAYS STUDY WHAT WE SHOULD DO TO IMPROVE THEM AND GO INTO THE TIMING OF IMPLEMENTATION.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 238800 TOSEC 100096

6. SECRETARY THEN GAVE MUTI' RUNDOWN OF OUR CURRENT MIDDLE EAST EFFORTS FOCUSING ON MOVING TOWARD A GENEVA CONFERENCE. SECRETARY STRESSED THAT MIDDLE EAST PEACE WAS MADE AN ITEM OF HIGHEST IMPORTANCE IN THE NEW ADMINISTRATION'S FOREIGN POLICY AGENDA. THERE IS GENERAL AGREEMENT THERE SHOULD BE A UNITED ARAB DELEGATION INCLUDING PALESTINIANS. THIS IS A STEP FORWARD ALTHOUGH CONSIDERABLE WORK REMAINS TO BE DONE TO GET AGREEMENT HOW THE CONFERENCE WOULD BE ORGANIZED.

7. SECRETARY THEN SUGGESTED MUTI' MIGHT WISH TO DISCUSS BILATERAL ISSUES WHICH HAVE SEPARATED US TO SEE HOW WE MIGHT RESOLVE THEM AND DEVELOP A TIME SCHEDULE FOR FURTHER IMPROVEMENT.

8. MUTI' THEN NOTED THINGS WHICH DID NOT HELP GOOD ATMOSPHERE BETWEEN US WITH SECRETARY RESPONDING ACCORDINGLY:

(A) THERE HAVE BEEN CONGRESSIONAL REPORTS NAMING PDRY AS AMONG COUNTRIES WHICH ENCOURAGE TERRORISM. PDRY LEADERSHIP WAS SURPRISED TO LEARN THIS AND OBJECTED STRONGLY TO

INCLUSION. SECRETARY READ FROM DEPARTMENT'S APRIL 27, 1977 LETTER TO SENATOR JAVITS WHICH NOTED "SOME PUBLIC EVIDENCE THAT THE PDRY HAS ON OCCASION ALLOWED ITS TERRITORY TO BE USED AS A SANCTUARY FOR TERRORISTS," EMPHASIZING AT THE SAME TIME OUR FURTHER COMMENT "THE ABSENCE OF ANY US REPRESENTATIVE IN SOUTH YEMEN AND THE GENERAL RESTRICTIONS PLACED ON THE MOVEMENTS AND CONTACTS OF FOREIGNERS THERE MAKES IT DIFFICULT FOR THE US TO VERIFY THE EXISTENCE AND EXTENT OF PDRY SUPPORT FOR TERRORISTS." MUTI' THEN EXPLAINED THAT IN RECENT HIJACKINGS WEST GERMANY AND JAPANESE GOVERNMENTS HAD EARNESTLY AND PERSISTENTLY APPEALED TO PDRY TO PERMIT TERRORISTS TO LAND GIVING PDRY GOVERNMENT NO CHOICE BUT TO ACCEPT THEM.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 STATE 238800 TOSEC 100096

(B) US HAD ISSUED NOTICE TO MARINERS THAT IT IS NOT SAFE TO ANCHOR AT PDRY PORTS DUE TO DANGER OF ARREST TO US CITIZENS. PDRY CONSIDERED THIS NOTICE TO CONSTITUTE PRACTICALLY A BLOCKADE. SECRETARY REVIEWED DETAILS OF A 1976 INCIDENT IN WHICH AMERICAN YACHT LANDING IN SOCOTRA UNDER EMERGENCY CONDITIONS HAD BEEN SEIZED AND ITS CREW IMPRISONED. BECAUSE IT TOOK SEVERAL WEEKS OF CONCERTED DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS BY OUR PROTECTING POWER, THE UK, TO SECURE THE RELEASE OF THE VESSEL AND CREW, WE HAD NO OTHER CHOICE BUT TO ISSUE THIS WARNING.

9. SECRETARY SAID HE WOULD LIKE ALSO TO NOTE PROBLEM OF EXPROPRIATED US PROPERTY AS BEING OUTSTANDING BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. EXISTENCE OF THESE VARIOUS ISSUES POINTS UP NEED FOR ESTABLISHING MECHANISM TO DISCUSS PROBLEMS IN ORDER TO MOVE EVENTUALLY TOWARD ESTABLISHING RELATIONS.

10. MUTI' AGREED AND SAID PDRY WOULD WELCOME A US VISIT TO ADEN IN THE NEXT TWO MONTHS TO DISCUSS OUR RELATIONS. (IN AN ASIDE TO UNDER SECRETARY HABIB, SECRETARY ASKED THAT WE TAKE NECESSARY STEPS TO SEND SUCH A DELEGATION.)

11. AT CLOSE OF MEETING MUTI' SAID HIS GOVERNMENT HAD DECIDED TO RESTORE RELATIONS WITH THE US. THE SECRETARY SAID WE HAD MADE SAME DECISION. IT WAS ALSO AGREED AT MUTI'S REQUEST TO KEEP IN CONFIDENCE THE FACT WE WOULD BE SENDING A DELEGATION TO THE PDRY.

12. FOR LONDON AND JIDDA: YOU SHOULD BRIEF HOST GOVTS ON SECRETARY'S CONVERSATION STRESSING FOLLOWING POINTS:

(A) WE BELIEVE IT IS NECESSARY AT THIS POINT IN TIME TO
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 05 STATE 238800 TOSEC 100096

GIVE THE PDRY AN ALTERNATIVE TO ITS PRESENT RELIANCE ON
COMMUNIST AND RADICAL GOVERNMENTS;

(B) WE WILL KEEP BRITISH AND SAUDIS INFORMED OF OUR FUR-

THEIR CONTACTS WITH THE PDRY AND WILL BE PARTICULARLY
ANXIOUS TO HAVE THEIR COUNSEL PRIOR TO SENDING A DELEGAT-
ION TO ADEN.

(C) WE ARE INFORMING OTHER AREA POSTS OF THE FACT OF THE
SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH MUTI' NOTING, HOWEVER, ONLY THAT
WE DISCUSSED WAYS IN WHICH WE MIGHT IMPROVE OUR CURRENT
RELATIONS. NEA ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON BRIEFED
FOREIGN MINISTERS SUWAIDI OF THE UAE AND ZAWAWI OF OMAN
ALONG THESE LINES. YOU SHOULD STRESS TO YOUR HOST
GOVERNMENTS NEED TO CLOSELY HOLD FACT WE INTEND SENDING
A HIGH LEVEL DELEGATION TO ADEN. CHRISTOPHER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, REPORTS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-Oct-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE238800
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JRCOUNTRYMAN:CEJ
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770362-0079
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771097/aaaademo.tel
Line Count: 192
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5cafef37-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1044408
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: THE SECRETARY'S CONVERSATION WITH PDRY FOREIGN MINISTER MUTI'
TAGS: PFOR, YE, US, (VANCE, CYRUS R), (MUTI, MOHAMMAD S)
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5cafef37-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009